

News Release



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U.S. Department of Labor Moves to Assist Job Seekers And Employers on Employee Identification Needs

WASHINGTON—The U.S. Department of Labor moved today to help workers and employers replace and obtain personal identification records necessary for employment. The department's Employment and Training Administration is working directly with federal, state and local offices of the nation's workforce investment system by providing Web services and toll-free telephone assistance.

"Our country has a nationwide network of 3,500 publicly funded One-Stop Employment centers which are eager to help hurricane survivors who lost the forms of identification normally required on employment forms," said U.S. Secretary of Labor Elaine L. Chao. "We are providing Internet, toll-free telephone and in-person assistance in reestablishing identification records as displaced Gulf Coast residents seek to rebuild their lives."

One-Stop Career Centers possess lists of Internet and toll-free resources that Hurricane Katrina-affected individuals can tap. "In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, the workforce investment system needs to be the key point connecting employers, job seekers and career opportunities together," said Assistant Secretary of Labor for Employment and Training Emily Stover DeRocco. "We're pleased that workforce professionals will be part of the solution addressing the challenges of new employment and the replacement of personal identification."

Individuals rendered jobless by Katrina may be hired without having to immediately furnish personal identification documents, such as a passport or a U.S. military card. On September 6, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) announced that it will not sanction employers for hiring individuals who cannot provide original identification documentation needed to take a job. Because people have been evacuated from their homes and due to ongoing displacement as well as the loss of documents, DHS will refrain from sanctions and enforcement for 45 days for civil violations.

Employers will still need to have I-9 forms completed to the greatest extent possible, but should make Hurricane Katrina notations where documents cannot be provided upon employment. Employers hiring Katrina-affected persons may present a receipt for the applications to replace documents within three days and the actual documents within 90 days.

Note: A list of online and toll-free personal document resources is attached.

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In Focus

**Hurricane Recovery Assistance for
Income Support and Jobs**

The U.S. Department of Labor is providing assistance to individuals impacted by Hurricane Katrina. "We are focused on getting income assistance to displaced workers as quickly as possible," said [Secretary of Labor Elaine L. Chao](#).

Available resources:

DOL's National Contact Center

1-866-4-USA-DOL

(1-866-487-2365)

- [Katrina Recovery Job Connection](#)

for workers impacted by Hurricane Katrina and employers who want to hire them.

- [Unemployment Insurance](#)

- Alabama residents, call 1-

866-234-5382

- Louisiana residents, call 1-

866-783-5567

- Mississippi residents, call 1-888-844-3577

- [Disaster Unemployment Assistance](#) for self-employed and newly employed who are ineligible for UI:

- Alabama residents, call 1-866-234-5382

- Louisiana residents, call 1-866-783-5567

- Mississippi residents, call 1-866-783-5567

- Texas residents, call 1-800-818-7811

- Information on National Emergency Grants (NEGs) for [Louisiana](#), [Mississippi](#), [Alabama](#), and [Texas](#).

- Information on [Job Training Grants for Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas](#).

- Visit [DOL's Career One-Stop Web site](#).

- For more information, please visit [DOL's Hurricane Recovery Assistance page](#).

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**"Getting people back to work is what this Department does.
Giving people hope in their future is our job."**

— **Secretary Elaine L. Chao**



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Latest Numbers from the Bureau of Labor Statistics

Consumer Price Index:	+0.5%	Aug 2005
Unemployment Rate:	4.9%	Aug 2005
Payroll Employment:	+169,000(p)	Aug 2005
Average Hourly Earnings:	+\$0.02(p)	Aug 2005
Producer Price Index:	+0.6%	Aug 2005
Employment Cost Index:	+0.7%	2nd Qtr 2005
Productivity:	+1.8%	2nd Qtr 2005
U.S. Import Price Index:	+1.3%	Aug 2005
Other DOL Statistics:		
Unemployment Initial (UI) Claims:	398,000	Sep 10 2005
UI Claims 4-Week Average:	340,750	Sep 10 2005
Federal Minimum Wage:	\$5.15	

p — preliminary; c — corrected

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